

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06239

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: DISSIDENTS: SHCHARANSKIY, BEGUN, AND TRIALS
IN KIEV

REF: MOSCOW 02577

SUMMARY: SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM
HIM ASKING HER AND HIS WIFE TO CHOOSE LAWYER. WE HAVE -
HEARD SEVERAL RUMORS PREDICTING AN EARLY, QUICK TRIAL
FOLLOWED BY EXPULSION. IOSIF BEGUN HAS LEFT MOSCOW
UNDER ORDERS OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.
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1. SHCHARANSKIY. ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY'S BROTHER HAS
TOLD US THAT KGB GAVE THEIR MOTHER A SHORT LETTER FROM
ANATOLIY LAST WEEK IN WHICH HE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED
DUBROVSKAYA AS HIS LAWYER AND SAID THAT HE TRUSTED HIS
MOTHER AND "AVITAL" (SHCHARANSKIY'S WIFE) TO CHOOSE A
LAWYER FOR HIM. THE HANDWRITING WAS THAT OF ANATOLIY,

ACCORDING TO HIS BROTHER. THE FAMILY IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT SINCE THE LETTER SPECIFIED THAT BOTH MOTHER AND AVITAL SHOULD CHOOSE A LAWYER, NEITHER CAN DO IT WITHOUT THE OTHER'S CONSENT. THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO USE THIS TO HAVE BETTER CONTACT WITH AVITAL AND TO BUTTRESS THEIR ARGUMENT FOR A FOREIGN LAWYER (ON THE GROUNDS THAT SHCHARANSKIY'S WIFE WILL NOT AGREE OTHERWISE).

2. MOSCOW RUMOR MILL AT WORK ON SHCHARANSKIY CASE. TWO NON-DISSIDENT, BUT UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS OF AN EMBOFF, TOLD HIM SEPARATELY LAST WEEK THAT THE CASE IS RUMORED TO BE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CONFLICT AT UPPER LEVELS, WITH AUTHORITIES AT PRESENT PURPORTEDLY LEANING TOWARD AN EARLY AND QUICK TRIAL FOLLOWED BY EXPULSION. TWO U.S. SCIENCE EXCHANGEES HEARD SAME REPORT FROM THEIR SOVIET COLLEAGUES.

3. IOSIF BEGUN, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL ABORTIVE, MILITIA-BLOCKED EFFORTS TO ENTER THE U.S. EMBASSY IN 1977 AND RECENTLY RETURNED TO MOSCOW FROM EXILE, WAS WARNED BY THE MILITIA TO LEAVE MOSCOW OR FACE ARREST. REFUSENIKS CONSIDER THIS ILLEGAL SINCE BEGUN'S WIFE HAS A RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR MOSCOW, AND IT IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE THAT A MAN MAY LIVE IN THE CITY WHERE HIS WIFE RESIDES. NEVERTHELESS, BEGUN HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTED MOSCOW AND HIS ACQUAINTANCES DO NOT YET KNOW WHERE HE WILL BE LIVING.

4. DISSIDENT SOURCES TELL US THAT THE KIEV TRIAL OF TWO MEMBERS OF UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP (PROBABLY MARINOVICH AND MATUSEVICH, REFTEL) IS BEING CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION, THAT EVEN THE FAMILIES CANNOT ATTEND THE TRIAL.

5. COMMENT: EXCLUSION OF CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS, IF TRUE, WOULD BE A FAIRLY UNUSUAL STEP, AND COULD FORESHADOW HOW THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKIY, ORLOV AND GINZBURG WILL BE HANDLED. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CORROBORATION REGARDING THE KIEV TRIAL FROM OTHER SOURCES. TOON

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